

said at least one air bearing portion is raised higher by a step than said slider main body; and  
a head unit provided adjacent to an air outflow end of said slider main body having a head portion comprised of head elements and a protection film for protecting said head elements projecting from a base portion thereof;  
wherein a top surface of said base portion is in accord with a top surface of said slider main body;  
said head portion is formed adjacent to one of said air bearing portion and a top surface thereof is formed lower than that of said air bearing portion; and  
a rear end surface of the projection projecting from said base portion projects inside a rear end surface of said base portion.

#### REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment, captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

As a preliminary matter, the examiner apparently entered the reference listed on the PTO 1449 form filed on May 8, 2001, but did not specifically acknowledge the reference as cited. An English language abstract of that reference is attached, for the examiner's convenience, and to assure consideration of the reference. Acknowledgement is respectfully requested.